

Page 2 of 4
Application No. 10/729,059
Amendment C

REMARKS

Responsive to the *Ex parte Quayle* action mailed November 21, 2005, Applicant provides the following. The claims have not been amended, and claims 17-20 were previously cancelled. Sixteen (16) claims remain pending in the application: Claims 1-16. Reconsideration of claims 1-16 in view of the remarks below is respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the Examiner's willingness to take part in the telephonic interview on December 21, 2005. Further, Applicant acknowledges with appreciation that claims 1, 2 and 11-15 are allowable.

By way of this amendment, Applicant has made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain any outstanding issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned at (858) 552-1311 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Summary of Applicant Initiated Examiner Interview

1. Per 37 CFR § 133(b), the following is a brief summary of the Examiner interview conducted December 21, 2005 via telephone between Steven M. Freeland, Attorney of Record, and Examiner Nguyen. Claim 11 was discussed, where Examiner Nguyen clarified that there was a typographical error that need to be corrected, specifically replacing "cured" with "curved".

Claims 1 and 12 were further discussed where Applicant's representative stated that at least claims 1 and 12 were generic claims directed to species 1-5 of the prior Restriction Requirement of May 23, 2005. Examiner Nguyen indicated that he believed that claims 1 and 12 did not read on species 6 related to FIG. 1.

No exhibits were presented or discussed.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 11 stands objected to as being unclear and confusing. More specifically, the Examiner identified that claim 11 included a typographical error stating on page 2 of the action that claim 11 recited "a second curved load ... on an opposite side of the door

435449_1

Page 3 of 4
Application No. 10/729,059
Amendment C

aperture than the first cured load deflector..." where the statement "the first cured load deflector" should instead read "the first curved load deflector." Applicant has reviewed claim 11 as filed and as recited in the prior responses filed February 28, 2005 and June 23, 2005. Applicant respectfully submits that the indicated typographical error is not present, and instead, the claim correctly reads "the first curved load deflector" (claim 11, emphasis added). Attached for the Examiner's convenience are copies of page 28 of the application as filed and page 4 of the response filed June 23, 2005 as retrieved from the Patent Application Information Retrieval system (PAIR), both demonstrating that claim 11 as filed and repeated in the prior response correctly recite "the first curved load deflector". Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 11 is clear and respectfully requests the objection be withdrawn.

If the Examiner continues to believe that claim 11 includes a typographical error and is thus unclear, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to contact Applicant's representative to discuss an Examiner amendment to address any objection.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication that claims 1, 2, and 11-15 are allowable. Allowable claims 1 and 12 are independent claims. All of the remaining pending claims 2-11 and 13-16 are dependent on claims 1 and 12, respectively. Therefore, claims 2-11 and 13-16 are also allowable based on the fact that they are dependent on allowed base claims 1 and 12 respectively. MPEP 806.04(d) specifically states that "[o]nce a >generic claim is allowable<, all of the claims drawn to species in addition to the elected species which >require< all the limitations of the generic claim will ordinarily be * allowable >over the prior art< in view of the *>allowability< of the generic claim, since the additional species will depend thereon or otherwise *>require< all of the limitations thereof..." (MPEP 806.04(d), see also MPEP § 821.04(a)).

Because claims 2-11 and 13-16 depend from allowed base claims 1 and 12, respectively, claims 2-11 and 13-16 are also allowable due at least on their dependency to allowed claims 1 and 12. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims 1-16 are allowable, and request a notice of allowance.

435449_1

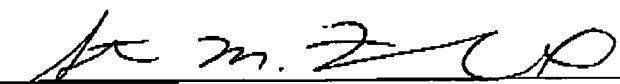
Page 4 of 4
Application No. 10/729,059
Amendment C

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that the above amendments and remarks place the pending claims in a condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: December 21, 2005



Steven M. Freeland
Reg. No. 42,555
Attorney for Applicant
(858) 552-1311

Attachments: Copy of pg. 28 of the application as filed (including claim 11); and
Copy of pg. 4 of the response filed June 23, 2005 (including claim 11).

Address all correspondence to:

FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY
Thomas F. Lebans
120 So. LaSalle Street, Ste. 1600
Chicago, IL 60603

Direct telephone inquiries to:

Thomas F. Lebans
(858) 552-1311
San Diego, California Office of
FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY

435449_1

9. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the patch extends over and covers the first curved load deflector.

10. The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising a second curved load deflector secured with the facesheet proximate the door aperture and on an opposite side of the door aperture than the first curved load deflector; and
the second load deflector having a length, wherein the second load deflector is curved along at least a portion of its length such that the second load deflector deflects the axial load.

11. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a second curved load deflector secured with the facesheet proximate the door aperture and on an opposite side of the door aperture than the first curved load deflector; and
the second load deflector having a length, wherein the second load deflector is curved along at least a portion of its length such that the second load deflector deflects the axial load.

12. An apparatus for use in reinforcing an access door, comprising:
a first load deflector positioned on a facesheet proximate an access door aperture;
the first load deflector having a first length such that the first load deflector is curved along at least a portion of its length;
the first curved load deflector having a first

JUN 23 2005 16:31

SS&B

805 541 2802 P.04

App. No. 10/729,059

Amendment B

Page 4

Claim 10 (original): The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising a second curved load deflector secured with the facesheet proximate the door aperture and on an opposite side of the door aperture than the first curved load deflector; and the second load deflector having a length, wherein the second load deflector is curved along at least a portion of its length such that the second load deflector deflects the axial load.

Claim 11 (original): The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a second curved load deflector secured with the facesheet proximate the door aperture and on an opposite side of the door aperture than the first curved load deflector; and the second load deflector having a length, wherein the second load deflector is curved along at least a portion of its length such that the second load deflector deflects the axial load.

Claim 12 (original): An apparatus for use in reinforcing an access door, comprising:

a first load deflector positioned on a facesheet proximate an access door aperture;

the first load deflector having a first length such that the first load deflector is curved along at least a portion of its length;

the first curved load deflector having a first defined curvature such that the first defined curvature of the first load deflector is proportional to a size of the access door aperture;

a second load deflector positioned on the facesheet proximate the access door aperture;